

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF GEORGE GREND A

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank George Grenda for his dedication to the 4-H Club community of northern Cook County, IL. George Grenda was born in 1938, raised in Chicago and suburban Cook County and has been employed by Country Co., as an insurance agent, for many years. His current office is in Palatine, IL.

George has participated in 4-H activities for over 20 years in north suburban Cook County. He and his wife Zola first became involved with 4-H when they chaperoned a group of 4-Hers in an exchange with West Virginia.

Since 1991, George has served on the Chicago-County 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees. In 1994, he was elected to the position of vice president, Financial Development. In that capacity he has regularly encouraged 4-H volunteer trustees to raise money by making calls even if it meant taping the phone to their hand until the job was done. He related that he made himself do just that when starting out as an insurance salesman.

In the late eighties when George was president of the North Cook County 4-H Fair Board, he always auctioned off cakes made by 4-Hers to raise money at a Knight of Columbus event. Because George would try to raise the amount by bidding on the cakes himself, he always got stuck buying at least one or two of the cakes.

Another one of George's presidential duties during his 6-year tenure, was to provide leadership in running the annual lemonade stand at the 4-H Fair. Needless to say, George was very good at first, carrying water; two squeezing lemons; three mixing lemonade; and four collecting money.

In 1996, George acted as chairman of FORE for 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament to raise money for the 61,000 4-Hers in Cook County. George was credited with spearheading this successful event which netted over \$5,000 for 4-H youth in Cook County.

For his countless hours committed to youth, their families, and communities, I would like to join all of the many volunteers and 4-H Staff in thanking George for his distinguished service and unmatched effort.

TRIBUTE TO THE STATE OF
ALABAMA

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, one of the nation's most well kept secrets is the state of Alabama. Few people know of the wonderful splendors and rich history contained within this

state. Staff writer James T. Yenckel, of the Washington Post, recently tapped into this secret and embarked upon a 700-mile exploration into northeastern Alabama. He wrote about his experiences in a June 15th article entitled "Well, I've Come From Alabama With a Brand New Point of View: The State Has a Lot to Offer." In his article Yenckel recognizes the historical richness of Alabama, as well as glorifies its natural beauty.

The state of Alabama deserves great acclaim for its natural beauty. The state contains about 24 state parks and over 12 major rivers. Northern Alabama also lies on the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Yenckel discusses his visits to several of these state parks and national monuments. Among those included is Little River Canyon National Preserve, which offers a breathtaking drive along the rock-filled canyon and a view of the waterfall which spills down the cliff side. Guntersville State Park is located in the northeastern corner of the state. Guntersville is a small town surrounded on three sides by the beautiful Lake Guntersville. Here travelers can enjoy swimming, fishing, hiking and golfing amount other things. Other parks, such as Desoto Caverns and the Talledega National Forest offer wonderful natural beauty which can only be properly appreciated up close and personal.

From a historical standpoint, Alabama has done a wonderful job of preserving landmarks and monuments. Throughout Guntersville you may hike along the actual trails that the Cherokee Indians used when the land was theirs. Russell Cave is a giant cave carved into the side of a cliff. Thousands of years ago Indians used this cave to escape from the cold. There are human skeletal remains in this cave which date back more than 6,000 years. Yenckel mentions the visitor's center which displays tooth ornaments, bone needles, shell beads, and bone fishhooks, along with other artifacts. Along the same lines, visitors can encounter Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. This site contains the battlefield on which Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Nation in 1814, and ensured himself a position as president of the United States.

The most profound historical significance in the state of Alabama lies in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. The state is developing a civil rights trail which would identify key sites and individuals associated with the movement. One of the nation's largest Civil Rights museums is the Civil Rights Institute located in Birmingham, Alabama. In central Alabama, visitors have the opportunity to visit historical Tuskegee Institute. Here, tourists learn of the lives of two men pivotal to African-American history, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. Both men devoted a large part of their lives toward the improvement of living and working conditions of rural southerners, especially blacks. The George Washington Carver Museum and the Oak's, the home of Washington when he served as president of Tuskegee, are both historic sites located on the campus of Tuskegee

University. Tours and movies are used to enlighten visitors on the lives and works of these two great men.

As Yenckel discovered, it does not take long for Alabama to win the hearts of those who enter her borders. The people of Alabama are friendly and courteous. Tourists can enjoy fresh seafood from the Gulf of Mexico. The state offers a quiet alternative to your usual vacation spot. Fish on the banks of one of the many rivers and lakes in Alabama, or hike through the numerous forests enjoying the natural splendor, or party in the downtown area of the Magic City. Alabama has a little something for everyone!

I am including the Washington Post article for your reading pleasure.

[From the Washington Post, June 5, 1997]

WELL, I'VE COME FROM ALABAMA—WITH A BRAND NEW POINT OF VIEW: THE STATE HAS A LOT TO OFFER

(By James T. Yenckel)

I was lost, plain and simple. Somewhere on the empty, scenic back roads of northeastern Alabama, I'd made a wrong turn. My map yielded no help, and I'd even lost my sense of direction. Then I spotted a delivery truck headed toward me, and I decided to flag the driver down to ask for directions. But he was slowing anyway, and as he pulled to a stop he asked, "Where am I?" I laughed and admitted I wanted to know the same myself. We joked briefly about our predicament, and then drove off in opposite directions.

Getting lost can be annoying and even frightening, but it's also comforting to find that America still offers odd nooks where getting lost remains possible. And Alabama definitely is one of them, as I discovered on a five-day driving trip last month through lovely lake and mountain country, stopping at several fascinating national historical sites.

Why Alabama? I doubt it has ever ranked high on many vacation lists—mine included, in part because of lingering memories of the angry clashes that marked the civil rights movement within the state. But I really wanted to put this past in the past and learn what the Alabama of today offers visitors. I often find that offbeat pocket of America—their local lore and geography—offer many more rewards than disappointments. Northeastern Alabama proved no exception.

Much of the landscape here is surprisingly mountainous—dotted with plentiful lakes that obviously attract a lot of fisherman. I saw them everywhere, casting from shore or putt-putting about in their small motorboats. One afternoon, I drove on the rim of the 35-mile-long Little River Canyon, a near-wilderness where waterfalls cascade down the cliffside into the splashing Little River. At one point, I watched a group of kayakers preparing to launch into the rapids. Recently made a national parkland, the canyon is one of the deepest east of the Mississippi.

My 700-mile itinerary took me to Russell Cave National Monument, where a short hike leads to two large limestone caverns in which archaeological digs have revealed human habitation dating back more than 8,000 years; to Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, the battlefield on which Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Nation in 1814 and put himself on the road to the presidency; and to Tuskegee Institute National

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